

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are active in the present application. Claims 3-5, 8-11 and 13-16 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Support for new Claims 17-23 is found in Claims 10-16. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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--3. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein each of R_1 and R_2 which are independent of each other, is an ethylene group or a propylene group.

4. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 1[, 2 or 3], wherein each of A_1 and A_2 which are independent of each other, is an acryloyl group or a methacryloyl group.

5. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 1[, 2, 3 or 4], wherein each of n and m which are independent of each other, is from 1 to 4.

8. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 6 [or 7], wherein the two types of curable compounds have curable sites connectable to each other.

9. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 6[, 7 or 8], which contains a curable compound having a molecular weight of at least 1,000.

10. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains a chiral agent.

11. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains a chiral agent, and the helical pitch of the chiral agent is at least 4 μm and at most three times of the electrode gap.

13. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 11 [or 12], wherein the helical pitch is at least 5 μm and at most two times of the electrode gap.

14. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to 13] Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains a very small amount of a curing catalyst.

15. (Amended) The method for producing a liquid crystal optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to 14] Claim 1, wherein a plurality of compounds of the formula (1) wherein n and m are different, are used in combination.

16. (Amended) A liquid crystal optical element produced by the method as defined in [any one of Claims 1 to 15] Claim 1.--

Claims 17-23 (New).